



# **Enterprise Business Awards Luncheon**

Remarks by Governor Jan Brewer

Thursday, May 5, 2011

I'm pleased to welcome you to the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Enterprise Business Awards – celebrating some of the best in business in our state.

Let me begin by congratulating the eight award recipients selected for this year's U.S. Small Business Administration Awards.

Your imagination, skills – and, yes, courage symbolize what Arizona's foundation of free enterprise is all about.

There are an estimated 450,000 small businesses in our state – that's about 97-percent of all Arizona business – so it is absolutely clear just how critical you are to our economy.

I want to thank Donna Davis for being a strong advocate for small businesses, and for working with my office as we developed the competitiveness package -- and identified resources for the Arizona Commerce Authority, and continued a moratorium on new regulations.

Donna was a strong champion for the reforms we've put in place, including tax reform that reduces the corporate income tax rate to a regional average just below 5 percent; and tax reform that reduces the business personal property tax.

In short, together, we are providing small business with additional benefits to grow and expand in Arizona.

I'd also like to welcome Wayne Rogers to Arizona. Wayne, in my opinion, M\*A\*S\*H was never the same after Trapper John left.

And, quite frankly, the Arizona economy could have used a M\*A\*S\*H Unit – at the time I became Governor.

But, Arizona is now on the Comeback Trail.

Ever since I took the Oath of Office, I've been committed to creating tools and resources that will encourage business to STAY here – to advance – and to ignite job creation.

I thank you for your support of the Arizona Competitiveness Package that passed this session –one of the most significant pieces of ECONOMIC legislation in Arizona state history.

It includes codification of the Arizona Commerce Authority as a highly focused, highly privatized entity -- with a deal closing fund that our competitor states have.

It provides for replacing our state enterprise zone laws with immediate tax incentives for quality job creation -- statewide.

And, it includes phased-in tax reform starting in 2014 to address those areas where we're not competitive with other states.

My team at the Authority is focused on business retention and expansion, as we enhance our support of Arizona companies and create new opportunities for industry to flourish.

We're establishing an economic environment that's stable, predictable and dependable.

It's an environment which will provide you with more freedom to grow your businesses -- with less government interference.

It's an environment that opens the door for our small businesses to become part of global supply chains.

I believe small business leaders represent the strength and character of Arizona – and I'm proud of all of you who have gathered here today.

Congratulations, again, to all of the award winners, and thank you for filling Arizona's future with great strength and promise.

Thank you.